

5.0 HAZARD POTENTIAL AND TRENDS

The interface areas within Boise County are characterized by a diverse mixture of varying housing structures, development patterns, ornamental and natural vegetation and natural fuels.

In the event of a wildfire, vegetation, structures and other flammables can merge with unpredictable results. Reviewing past WUI fires shows that most property is destroyed or damaged for one or more of the following reasons:

- Combustible roofing material;
- Wood construction;
- Structures with no defensible space;
- Fire departments with poor or limited road access to structures;
- Developments located in heavy natural fuel types;
- Structure/properties located on steep slopes covered with flammable vegetation;
- Limited water supply;
- Winds over 30 miles per hour; and
- Concentrations of dying, diseased, or fire dependant wildland vegetation.

Boise County exhibits all of these characteristics either throughout the county, or in some instances, within a very concentrated area.

Limited Road Access is a major issue for all emergency service providers within the County. As population trends and demands for housing increase, some developments exhibit less than adequate turn-around space for emergency vehicles. Some County communities and developments are challenged by steep narrow roadways, while others are served by bridges that have weight restrictions imposed, thereby eliminating various types of fire suppression resources as an option in protecting lives and properties.

Limited Water Supply in remote developments and communities within the County continue to hamper suppression operations in the interface. Wildland areas continue to rely on the natural water sources within the county, but those areas that are co-mingled with private ownership face characteristically inadequate water systems and lack of hydrants.

The diversity, location and amount of fire fighting equipment, as well as the number of personnel within each of the VFDs and RFDs are substantially different between the major communities and developments. Wildfire protection may need to rely more on each landowner's initiative to take preventative measures.